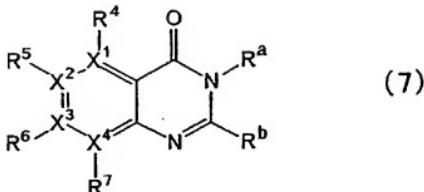


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a pyrimidin-4-one compound of formula (7):



wherein:

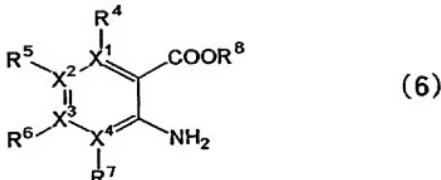
R<sup>a</sup> represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group;

R<sup>b</sup> represents hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 12 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 22 carbon atoms, or an aryl group, provided that R<sup>b</sup> is not hydrogen when R<sup>a</sup> is hydrogen;

R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> each independently represent hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 12 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 22 carbon atoms, or an aryl group; and

X<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>2</sup>, X<sup>3</sup> and X<sup>4</sup> each independently represent a carbon atom;

the method comprising reacting an aminocarboxylic acid compound of formula (6):



wherein each of X<sup>1</sup>, X<sup>2</sup>, X<sup>3</sup>, X<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> has the meaning as defined above, and R<sup>8</sup> represents hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 12 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 22 carbon atoms, or an aryl group;

with an organic acid compound of formula (4):



wherein  $R^3$  represents a hydrocarbyl group, and  $R^b$  has the meaning as defined above;

in [an] a polar organic solvent in the presence of a nitrogen atom-containing compound of formula (2):



wherein  $R^a$  has the meaning as defined above.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim [3] 1, wherein the polar organic solvent is a lower alcohol having 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the reaction is performed at a temperature in the range of 40 to 200°C.

7-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the organic acid compound is ethyl orthoacetate, methyl orthoformate, or methyl orthoacetate.

14-15. (Cancelled).